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03500.119686

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
AKIHIRO FUKUTOMI)
:)
Application No.: 10/566,437)
:)
Filed: January 31, 2006)
:)
For: IMAGE FORMING)
:)
APPARATUS HAVING A)
:)
PLURALITY OF LASER)
:)
SCANNER UNITS : May 22, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each non-U.S. patent document so listed is enclosed. Copies of U.S. patent documents are not enclosed, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) as revised September, 2004 and pursuant to the waiver published at 1287 OG 163 (October, 2004).

PCT WO 03/101742
Japan 10-221617
Japan 10-228148
Japan 2001-42595
Japan 2001-209234
Japan 2001-337510
Japan 2003-159835
Japan 2003-211728

Japan 2003-279875
Japan 2003-337454

Japan 10-221617 and Japan 2003-279875 were cited in the specification and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there.

The remaining documents were cited during prosecution of the PCT application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the International Search Report was filed concurrently with the filing of the subject application.

English language abstracts for each of the above-cited Japanese documents have been located and are enclosed. In addition, it is believed that U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0112316 is an English language counterpart of Japan 2003-159835, that U.S. Patent 6,477,348 is an English language counterpart of Japan 2001-42595, and that U.S. Patent 6,934,497 is an English language counterpart of Japan 2003-337454. Those U.S. patent documents are also listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

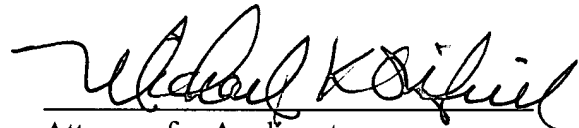
Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

This application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a notice of allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the \$180.00

fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

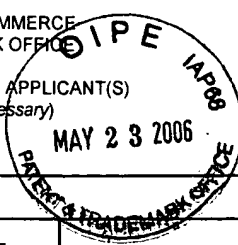
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Michael K. O'Neill
Registration No.: 32,622

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| *FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.119686 | | APPLICATION NO. 10/566,437 | |
|  | | | | APPLICANT Akihiro Fukutomi | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE January 31, 2006 | | GROUP Unknown | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 6,477,348 | 11/5/02 | Miyamoto, et al | 399 | 299 | |
| | | 6,934,497 | 8/23/05 | Hagiwara, et al | 399 | 299 | |
| | | 2003-159835 | 6/19/03 | Aruga, et al | 347 | 115 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 03/101742 | 12/11/03 | PCT WO | | | |
| | | 10-221617 | 8/21/98 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 10-228148 | 8/25/98 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 2001-42595 | 2/16/01 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 2001-209234 | 8/3/01 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 2001-337510 | 12/7/01 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 2003-159835 | 6/3/03 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 2003-211728 | 7/29/03 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 2003-279875 | 10/2/03 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 2003-337454 | 11/28/03 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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